

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SAL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01  
MMO-01 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01  
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01  
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ARA-06 OIC-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 /150 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:RDARMAN/AD  
APPROVED BY S/AR:AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON  
S/P:HBLANEY  
AF/I:LSHIRTLEFF  
NEA/EGY:CKENNEDY

-----250250Z 093072 /73

O 250153Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS:PLOS

SUBJECT:LAW OF THE SEA CONSULTATIONS - AFRICA

1. SUMMARY. IN ORDER TO ADVANCE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESSFUL  
NEGOTIATION AT FORTHCOMING MAY-JULY UNCLOS SESSION IN NEW  
YORK, AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON WILL BE SENDING DEPUTY SPECIAL

REPRESENTATIVES FOR LAW OF THE SEA RICHARD G. DARMAN AND JOHN T. SMITH ON BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON WOULD APPRECIATE POSTS' ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THESE MEETINGS WITH HIS TWO PRINCIPAL DEPUTIES. LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS EXPLAINING US GOALS.

2. PURPOSE OF CONSULTATIONS. RECENT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF NORWEGIAN MINISTER EVENSEN, WERE CHARACTERIZED BY CLEARLY IMPROVED MOOD AND INCREASED REALISM REGARDING MAJOR OUTSTANDING DEEP SEABED ISSUES. LOS LEADERS FROM 84 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THIS TWO-WEEK SESSION. IF MOOD AND REALISM CAN BE SUSTAINED IN FORTHCOMING NY SESSION, PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF TREATY WILL BE DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED. PRIOR TO NY SESSION, G-77 PLANS CAUCUS FROM WHICH HARDER LINE IS EXPECTED TO EMERGE. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED TO PREVENT SUCH A RETROGRESSIVE HARDENING. THE PURPOSE OF DARMAN/SMITH TRIP IS TO GAIN

DETAILED INFORMATION ON DIRECTIONS IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS MAY MOVE, STRENGTHEN THE BASE OF MODERATE LOS LEADERSHIP, AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS. DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON DEEP SEABED ISSUES (COMMITTEE ONE).

3. RICHARDSON LETTER. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO HIGHEST LOS OFFICIAL FROM AMBASSADOR AT LARGE ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON. BEGIN TEXT:

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE SUCCESS-  
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FUL NEGOTIATION OF A SOUND, COMPREHENSIVE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WOULD BE CLEARLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL MANKIND. PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSED THIS SENTIMENT IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS A SENTIMENT WHICH WE KNOW YOU SHARE.

-- AS YOU KNOW, DEEP SEABED ISSUES HAVE BEEN, AND REMAIN, AMONG THE MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES IN THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, BY THE RECENT INFORMAL INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THESE ISSUES AT THE MEETINGS CONVENED IN GENEVA BY NORWEGIAN MINISTER JENS EVENSEN. THESE CONSULTATIONS WERE FRANK, REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND SEEMED TO ENGENDER A SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM THAT A PRACTICAL RESOLUTION OF THE DEEP SEABED ISSUES MIGHT BE WITHIN REACH. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO DO OUR PART TO HELP ENSURE THAT SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT IS CONTINUED.

-- TO THIS END, I HAVE DIRECTED MY TWO DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR LAW OF THE SEA, MR. RICHARD G. DARMAN AND

MR. JOHN THOMAS SMITH, TO UNDERTAKE SPECIAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A SET OF KEY COUNTRIES. THESE CONSULTATIONS WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON COMMITTEE I (DEEP SEABED) ISSUES.

-- MESSRS. DARMAN AND SMITH HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS. THEY SERVED WITH ME IN ALL FOUR OF MY CABINET ASSIGNMENTS. MOST RECENTLY, THEY SERVED WITH ME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AS, RESPECTIVELY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR POLICY AND GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. THEY HAVE MY VERY HIGHEST PERSONAL CONFIDENCE AND ARE INTIMATELY FAMILIAR NOT ONLY WITH US LOS POLICY DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO WITH MY OWN THINKING IN DEPTH AND IN DETAIL.

-- I WOULD ADD THAT SECRETARY VANCE SHARES MY SENTIMENTS AND HAS WRITTEN TO (FOREIGN MINISTER) INFORMING HIM OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPIRIT IN WHICH THE CONSULTATIONS BY MESSRS. DARMAN AND SMITH ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN. I PERSONALLY WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF YOU AND OTHERS WHOM YOU MIGHT DESIGNATE WOULD AGREE TO MEET WITH MESSRS. DARMAN AND SMITH.

-- IN ANY CASE, I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU PERSONALLY IN NEW YORK IN MAY, TO CONTINUE OUR MUTUAL EFFORT TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF A TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. WITH BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON. END TEXT.

5. FOR YAOUNDE. SPECIAL RICHARDSON LETTER FOR ENGO SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

-- DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,

-- IT WAS A PLEASURE TALKING WITH YOU ON MARCH 22, AND I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES RICHARD DARMAN AND J.T. SMITH ON APRIL 3 OR APRIL 4.

-- I SHARE YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

-- I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU IN NEW YORK AS WE DISCUSSED, AND TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU ON THE IMPORTANT CHALLENGES BEFORE US. WITH BEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON. END TEXT.

6. DARMAN/SMITH SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

-- 3/29 - WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK  
-- 3/29 - NEW YORK TO DAKAR PA 190 AT 1400/0645 PLUS 1  
-- 3/31 - DAKAR TO ACCRA - GH 549 AT 0900/1515  
-- 4/1 - ACCRA TO LAGOS - GH 569 AT 1900/2045  
-- 4/2 - LAGOS TO DOUALA - UY 709 AT 1605/L730  
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-- 4/2 - DOUALA TO YAOUNDE - UY 766 AT 1930/2000  
-- 4/4 - YAOUNDE TO DOUALA - UY 717 AT 1800/1830  
-- 4/4 - DOUALA TO LAGOS - WT 634 AT 2120/2234  
-- 4/6 - LAGOS TO NAIROBI - PA 190 AT 1605/0050 PLUS 1  
-- 4/8 - NAIROBI TO CAIRO - MS 760 AT 0525/0905  
-- 4/9 - CAIRO TO NEW YORK - TW 841 AT 0830/1918  
-- 4/9 - NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON

7. AMBASSADOR AND POST LOS OFFICER ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH DARMAN AND SMITH IN LOS CONSULTATIONS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT LAW OF THE SEA OFFICIALS RE PROPOSED VISIT AND ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS. PLEASE APPOINT CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT TO MEET AND ASSIST AND RESERVE SINGLE ROOMS AT INTER-CONTINENTAL-TYPE HOTELS WHERE POSSIBLE.

9. DUE TO VERY LIMITED TIME AND THE NECESSITY TO CONSULT WITH HIGHEST-LEVEL OFFICIALS, MESSRS. DARMAN AND SMITH DESIRE TO DEVOTE MAXIMUM AVAILABLE TIME TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AND A MINIMUM TO SOCIAL EVENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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